

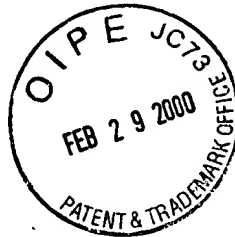
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

O'BRIEN et al

Serial No. 09/043,406

Filed: 18 March 1998



Atty. Ref.: 36-1148

Group: 2763

Examiner: George Morgan
(306-2906)

For: SERVICE PROVISION SYSTEM FOR USE IN
DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING ENVIRONMENTS

* * * * *

August 16, 1999

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

BY FACSIMILE (305-0040)

Sir

SUBSTITUTE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in substitution for the March 18, 1998 preliminary amendment (drawn to the unamended original PCT application claims) in order to place the above identified application (with the amended PCT claims now on file in this US national phase application) in better condition for examination, please amend the specification and claims as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, first line of text, before (numbered) line 4, insert:

-- RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation-in-part of our co-pending commonly assigned U.S. application Serial No. 08/695,528 filed 6 June 1996 (now abandoned) and a US national phase application